

Appl. No. 10/663,963
Amdt. dated 12/07/2005
Reply to Office Action of 9/27/2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original): An apparatus, comprising:

a supporting structure;

a mirror including:

a rear surface that is in opposing face-to-face relation with the supporting structure,

a front surface facing away from the supporting structure and for being viewed, and

a margin;

one or more fasteners that fasten the margin to the supporting structure, with each of the fasteners including a protruding portion extending forward of the front surface of the mirror;

a frame extending around and thereby defining an opening, wherein:

a rear surface of the frame is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin, so that at least some of the front surface is viewable through the opening and the frame at least partially covers the fasteners, and

the frame defines one or more recesses which extend into the frame from the rear surface and that are respectively at least partially in receipt of the protruding portions of the fasteners, so that at least a substantial portion of the rear surface of the frame is substantially flush with the front surface of the mirror.

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2. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supporting structure is a wall of a building.

3. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the fasteners includes a bracket engaging an edge of the mirror.

4. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame has an outermost periphery and an innermost periphery, and an outermost edge of the mirror is closer to the outermost periphery than to the innermost periphery.

5. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rear surface of the frame is adhered to the front surface of the mirror at the margin.

6. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising one or more fastening strips by which the rear surface of the frame is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin, wherein the frame defines one or more recesses that respectively at least partially contain the fastening strips.

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7. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame includes a front surface that is opposite from the rear surface and is decorative.

8. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rear surface of the frame and an innermost periphery of the frame intersect at a circumferential edge of the frame, the circumferential edge at least partially defines the opening, and the circumferential edge and the rear surface of the frame are substantially within a common plane.

9. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least an inner marginal portion of the rear surface of the frame is black.

10. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rear surface of the frame includes an inner margin which extends around and is adjacent the opening, and the inner margin of the rear surface of the frame is positioned between the recesses and the opening.

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11. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the rear surface of the frame further includes an outer margin, and the recesses are between the inner and outer margins of the rear surface.

12. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame includes a plurality of sidepieces that are respectively joined to one another end to end, at miter joints.

13. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the sidepieces respectively include the recesses.

14. (Currently Amended): A frame for mounting to a mirror that is fastened to a supporting structure by one or more fasteners which engage a margin of the mirror, wherein a front surface of the mirror faces away from the supporting structure and is for being viewed, and each of the fasteners includes a protruding portion extending forward of the front surface of the mirror, with the frame comprising:

a rear surface for being mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin, so that the frame ~~boards~~ borders at least some of the front surface and at least partially covers the fasteners while the rear surface of the frame is mounted to the front surface of

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the mirror at the margin;

an opening which the frame extends around, wherein at least some of the front surface of the mirror can be viewed through the opening of the frame while the rear surface of the frame is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin;

one or more recesses which extend into the frame from the rear surface and that are for at least partially receiving the protruding portions of the fasteners while the rear surface of the frame is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin, so that the rear surface of the frame can be substantially flush with the front surface of the mirror while the rear surface of the frame is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin; and

an innermost periphery which extends around and is contiguous with the opening, wherein the innermost periphery and the rear surface of the frame intersect at a circumferential edge that extends around and at least partially defines the opening, and the circumferential edge and the rear surface of the frame are substantially within a common plane; and

an outermost periphery of the frame and a surface which defines a recess of the recesses intersect at an outer circumferential edge of the frame, the outer circumferential edge is contiguous with the recess, and the outer circumferential edge and the rear surface are not in a common plane.

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15. (Original): A frame according to claim 14, wherein the circumferential edge is distant from and positioned substantially farther inward than the recesses.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled):

18. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for framing a mirror that is fastened to a supporting structure by one or more fasteners which engage a margin of the mirror, wherein a front surface of the mirror faces away from the supporting structure and is for being viewed, and each of the fasteners includes a protruding portion extending forward of the front surface of the mirror, with the apparatus for framing comprising:

a plurality of sidepieces that are for being connected together to form a frame that:

has a rear surface for being mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin, so that the frame ~~boards~~ borders at least some of the front surface of the mirror and at least partially covers the fasteners while the rear surface is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin;

defines an opening through which at least some of the front surface of the mirror can be viewed while the rear surface is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin,

defines one or more recesses which extend into the frame from the rear

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surface and that are for at least partially receiving the protruding portions of the fasteners, so that the rear surface of the frame can be substantially flush with the front surface of the mirror while the rear surface is mounted to the front surface of the mirror at the margin, wherein a first sidepiece of the plurality of sidepieces includes at least one of the recesses which extends between and to ends of the first sidepiece, and

includes an innermost periphery wherein the innermost periphery and the rear surface of the frame intersect at an inner circumferential edge of the frame, the circumferential edge at least partially defines the opening, and the circumferential edge and the rear surface of the frame are substantially within a common plane.

19. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein each of the sidepieces has a front surface that is decorative.

20. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein for each of the sidepieces, the ends of the sidepieces are mitered.

21. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein for each of the sidepieces, the side piece includes a rear surface having at least one fastening strip mounted thereto for mounting the rear surface of the frame to the front surface of the mirror at the margin.

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22. (Cancelled):

23. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for framing a mirror, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of sidepieces having ends that are for being respectively joined to one another at joints by fasteners which respectively extend into the sidepieces to form a frame, so that the frame:

extends around and thereby defines an opening,

includes a rearmost surface for being mounted to the mirror, wherein the fasteners are visible at the rearmost surface of the frame, and

Includes an innermost periphery and the rearmost surface of the frame intersect at a circumferential edge that extends around and at least partially defines the opening, and the circumferential edge and the rearmost surface of the frame are substantially within a common plane.

24. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein for each sidepiece of the plurality of sidepieces, a rearmost surface of the sidepiece has at least one fastener mounted thereto for fastening the sidepiece to the mirror.

25. (Cancelled)

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26. (Original): An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the ends of the sidepieces are respectively joined to one another at miter joints to form the frame.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn): A method of framing a mirror, the method comprising:
providing a frame;
mounting at least one guide structure at a predetermined location;
then mounting the frame to the mirror in a predetermined position, including using the guide structure to position the frame at the predetermined position; and
then removing the guide structure from the predetermined location.

29. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein the predetermined location is on a front surface of the mirror and is adjacent the predetermined position.

30. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein mounting the frame to the mirror includes mounting a rear surface of the frame to a front surface of the mirror at a margin of the mirror.

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31. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein mounting the frame to the mirror includes a rear surface of the frame to a front surface of the mirror at a margin of the mirror.

32. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein providing the frame includes respectively joining sidepieces of the frame together end to end, at miter joints.

33. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein using the guide structure to position the frame at the predetermined position includes positioning the guide structure through an opening defined by an innermost periphery of the frame, so that the guide structure is positioned in a corner defined by the innermost periphery of the frame.

34. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein mounting the frame to the mirror includes at least partially covering a plurality of fasteners which mount the margin of the mirror to a supporting structure.

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35. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 34, wherein:

each of the fasteners includes a protruding portion which extends forward of the front surface of the mirror, and

covering the fasteners includes at least partially positioning the protruding portions respectively in one or more recesses of the frame that are open at a rear surface of the frame.

36. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, further comprising using the guide structure to suspend the frame in front of the predetermined position.

37. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 36, wherein:

mounting the frame includes moving the frame from the position in front of the predetermined position to the predetermined position while the frame is suspended from the guide structure; and

moving the frame from the position in front of the predetermined position to the predetermined position includes sliding the frame along the guide structure.